

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 are amended; no claims are added or cancelled. In view of the following Remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20, 23, 25-27 and 29-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Zhang *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,016,478 ("Zhang"), in view of Meeting Maker XP, as disclosed in "Meeting Maker XP: ON Technology Takes Its Group Scheduler Cross-Platform," by Rizzo ("Rizzo"). The Examiner has rejected claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Zhang in view of Rizzo and further in view of Tognazzi, U.S. Patent No. 5,790,974, ("Tognazzi"). Applicants traverse these rejections because the references, alone and in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "busy time determination means for gathering the one or more invitee profiles for the one or more potential invitees that were requested by the request generating means and that are available in the database means and automatically determining whether those one or more potential invitees are available during the time interval requested by the request generating means, and means for scheduling a meeting by using the electronic mail address in the invitee profile to automatically send each of the one or more potential invitees available an electronic mail invitation to attend at the time interval requested based on the automatic determination made by the busy time determination means as to whether those one or more potential invitees are available during the time interval requested." At least these features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Zhang or Rizzo, either alone or in combination with one another.

The Examiner concedes that in the system taught by Zhang, meeting invitations are sent out without referencing the invitees schedules. The Final Office

Action, page 6, lines 17 and 18. The Examiner apparently relies on Rizzo to teach this feature. col. 3, line 49 through col. 4, line 20 to teach this feature. More specifically, the Examiner states that:

[Rizzo] makes up for this deficiency in its teaching of a calendar window that allows a meeting planner to pick a time when all potential invitees are available by displaying “a composite of the schedules of all required and optional guests” prior to sending each potential invitee the initial meeting invitation. *Id.* at page 6, line 19-page 7, line 1.

In other words, the Examiner has alleged that Rizzo teaches a presentation to a meeting planner of a composite calendar that includes the schedules of a plurality of potential invitees so that a meeting planner can use the composite calendar to select a time at which the potential invitees are available. Even if this were an accurate representation of the teachings of Rizzo, it would still not cure the admitted deficiency of Zhang because displaying a composite calendar to enable selection of an appropriate meeting time, as is allegedly taught by Rizzo, is different than automatically determining if potential invitees will be available at a time interval that has already been requested.

Additionally, assuming arguendo that Rizzo did cure the admitted deficiency of Zhang, the proposed combination would still not teach or suggest automatically sending the potential invitees an electronic mail invitation to attend at the time interval requested based on the automatic determination made as to whether the potential invitees are available during the time interval.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Rizzo does not remedy the deficiencies of Zhang. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Independent claims 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 include features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above, independent claims 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 are also patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Dependent claims 2-4, 8-16, 18-25, 27-29, and 31-37 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30. Because

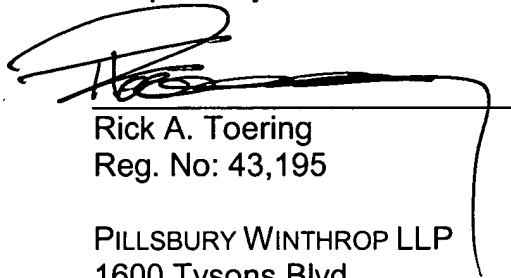
neither Zhang nor Rizzo, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each of the features of the independent claims, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-4, 8-16, 18-25, 27-29, and 31-37 are also patentable for at least the foregoing reasons, as well as for the features that they add to the independent claims.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: March 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick A. Toering', is written over a horizontal line. A long, thin vertical line extends from the right side of the signature down towards the contact information.

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